(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The number of workers engaged in the work of loading of fine ore rakes/wagon in Biop Dep. 14, Kirandul is 341 and in Biop, Dop. No. 5, Bacheli is NIL.

(b) The above workers are not contract workers and all of them are departmental piece rated workers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bhojpuri Films on Doordarshan

3401. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bhojpuri films telecast on various Doordarshan Kendras during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether a very less number of Bhojpuri films are being screened;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor: and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to screen more Bhojpuri films in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details are as under:

1993-94	:	3
1994-95	:	3
1995-96	:	20

(b) to (d). Doordarshan telecasts films in various dialects/ languages offered to it depending upon their suitability and Doordarshan's programme requirements from time to time. The number of Bhojpuri films telecast by Doordarshan during the said period compared favourably with other dialect films.

[English]

Percentage of reservation for Scheduled Castes

3402. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of the increased population of Scheduled Castes, due to inclusion of Neo-Budhists in the list of Scheduled Castes vide Act 15 of 1990, as on date has been taken into consideration for fixing the percentage of reservation for SCs in the recruitments in the services of the Maharashtra State as well as the Union Government;

(b) if so, the percentage determined;

(c) the number of posts created till date in accordance with this percentage; and

(d) the backlog and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). In respect of Maharashtra State, information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

In respect of Government of India, percentage of reservation made for Scheduled Castes remains unaltered since the time the percentage of 15% was fixed.

(c) Posts are not created in accordance with the prescribed percentage of reservation.

(d) Under Special Recruitment Drive, 1995, identified backlog of reservation for Scheduled Castes as on 1.4.1995 is as under:

(i)	Ministries/Deptt	=	8251
(ii)	Banks	=	524
(iii)	PSUs	=	3620
			12395

Number of posts of Scheduled Castes filled up during Special Recruitment Drive, 1995 is as under:-

(i)	Ministries/Deptt.	=	4672
(ii)	Banks	=	385
(iii)	PSUs	=	1879
			6936

Government have since launched 6th Special Recruitment Drive in 1996 to fill up backlog vacancies for SC/STs on 1.7.1996.

Postal Stamps Racket

3403. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indrapuram Police of Ghaziabad unearthed a racket of printing of stamps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against them; and

(e) the precautionary measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). No case of unauthorised printing of postage stamps at Ghaziabad has come to the notice of the Department.

Workers in Pesticides Factories

3404. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper training and safeguards are ensured by the Government for the workers engaged in handling hazardous chemicals and working in pesticides factories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Telephone coverage in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3405. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone coverage in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands so far;

(b) the progress made during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Action Plan for expansion of telecome services in the above Union Territory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All major towns have been covered with telephone facility. All District Head Quarters, Sub-divisional Head Quarters and 6 out of a total 7 Tehsil Head Quarters have been provided with STD facility. 93 out of a total 292 villages have been provided with Public Telephone facility. At present 24 Telephone exchanges are working with equipped capacity of 6581 lines, 5153 Direct Exchange Lines and waiting list 2326.

(b) The progress made during each of last three years is given in Statement.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The department has planned to add 2450 lines of switching capacity, 2000 new telephone connections and 201 village public telephones during 1996-97. This includes replacement/expansion of telephone exchanges at Port Blair, Campbellbay, Hut Bay, Revelock, Brichgunj and Lapathy. And opening of new telephone exchanges at Chouldary and Ograbraj.

STATEMENT

Progress made during each of last three years in A&N Islands

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. No. of Exchanges Commissioned	3	4	3
2. Net Switching Capacity added	680	1417	1384
3. Net DELs provided	301	722	1320
4. VPT provided	7	18	36
5. STD facility provided to No. of Stations in the circle (A&N)	2	1	2

Posts Offices in the Country

3406. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices in the rural and urban areas, State/Union Territory-wise, district-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices set up in rural and urban areas during each of the last three years, State-wise, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Action Plan for improvement/expansions/speedy mail delivery/proper supply of postal stationary of postal services in the rural and urban areas, separately;